

THE
EXAMINATION

O F

Major General *Anstruther*,

Lieutenant Governour of *MINORCA*,

Before the H----- of L-----, *January 28, 1741.* Together with the Resolution
of the House on the same, and the *PROTEST* on that Occasion,

(*Price Six-pence.*)

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28 Jan. 1741.

MAJOR General *Anstruther* attending (according to Order) was call'd in, and being sworn, was shew'd the List of the several Officers upon the Establishment of *Minorca*; whereby it appears, what Number of them are absent, and the Nature of their respective Offices, and was directed to give the Reasons (as far as he knew) which occasioned their Absence.

The Earl of *Hertford*, Governour, says, the Occasion of his Absence is from his being infirm, and not able to Travel, and from that Infirmary has never been able to go to the Island.

The Lieutenant Governour (*viz.* himself) says, I am absent by His Majesty's Leave.

Q. When did you come away from the Island?

A. I left the Island the 15th or 16th of *February* last, I can't be positive which; but it was one of those Days.

Q. Upon what Account did you leave the Island?

A. I had Leave upon my own Application.

Q. By what Orders did you come away?

A. The Leave that all Officers have comes regularly from the Secretary at War.

Q. Whether you made the Application for coming Home yourself, and to whom you made it?

A. I made it in the way all Applications are made, to the Secretary at War: I have the Leave of Absence in my Pocket, sent to me by the Secretary at War, by the King's Order.

Which he produc'd, and the same was read.

Q. On whom did the Command devolve, upon your coming away?

A. The Command always devolves upon the oldest Commanding Officer, and that was Brigadier *Paget*.

Q. As this was a conditional Leave, whether you were under any Apprehensions of an Attack from the *Spaniards*; or whether the Design of the *Spaniards* had actually been laid aside, when you left the Island?

A. I understood my Leave of Absence to be conditional; that I had no Leave of Absence, if I was under any Apprehensions of the Island's being attack'd. Before I left the Island, I had certain Intelligence of the Enemies having carried off Part of their Cannon, Part of their Mortars, and Part of their Troops from *Majorca*, which was the Place from which they design'd to attack the Island.

Q. Whether, before you left the Island, you had any Correspondence with Admiral *Haddock*; or consulted him, so as to know his Thoughts with regard to the *Spaniards* having laid aside their Design to attack the Island?

A. Tho' I was very sure, from my own Intelligence, the Design was laid aside for that Time, yet I apply'd to Mr. *Haddock*, to know if he had any Intelligence to the contrary, who agreed with me, and that he had none.

Q. What Quantity of Cannon was carried away, and what remained at *Majorca*?

A. As to the Quantity that was carried away from thence, I cannot be positive; what was brought from *Barcelona* thither I knew exactly, as well as the Number of Mortars: There were 2500 Men carried back from *Majorca* to *Barcelona* along with Part of the Artillery.

Q. Whether the Report of *Minorca's* being in Danger of an Attack from the *Spaniards*, did not cease, just at the Time, or a little after the Time that the *Spanish* Squadron sail'd from *Cadiz* to the *West-Indies*?

A. I think what prevented the Island's being attack'd at that Time, was five Ships that Mr. *Haddock* brought from *Gibraltar*, which he conceived to be Force enough to prevent any Attack being made upon the Island. My Intelligence, that they were to come into the Island with a Body of 16000 Men, 9000 whereof were to come from *Barcelona*, and 7000 from *Majorca*. After this Mr. *Haddock* came up with the Ships; and I am satisfy'd, that was what prevented the Attack.

Q. Ask'd the same Question again as to the Time of the Report ceasing?

A. The Fleet sail'd some Time after that, about three Weeks or a Month after that, to the best of my Remembrance.

Q. At what Time did Mr. *Haddock's* Ships come to *Minorca*?

A. I cannot charge my Memory with the exact Time.

Q. Whether, in your Opinion, 16000 are necessary to make the Siege of Fort St. *Philip*; or whether 10,000 Men are not sufficient?

A. If 'tis agreed, as the *Spaniards* believ'd, that the People of the Island are in their Interest, what the Noble Duke says, I believe, might be sufficient, because when those Troops were to come over, by my Intelligence, there were Arms for 7000 Men, that it was possible they imagin'd the Island would furnish them with; which makes me believe they did think the People of the Island would have joined them. But had that Number of Men been in the Interest of the *English*, the Noble Duke knows 16000 would be scarce sufficient.

Q. Whether the Island can't be attack'd from *Barcelona*?

A. To be sure the Island can be attack'd from any Part of *Spain*,

Q. Whether

Q. Whether the Number of Troops left in *Majorca* were sufficient to make you fear any Danger ?

A. I apprehended no Danger from the Troops left in *Majorca*.

Q. Whether the Commission you have as Lieutenant-Governor, gives you the same Powers, as the Governor would have if he were present ?

A. I understand it does.

Q. Acquaint the House with the Nature of those Powers.

A. The Civil Government of that Island is carried on by Judges of the King's Nomination, Natives of the Island ; they are govern'd by their own Laws ; the Governor has a Power, upon the Judges being of different Opinions, to agree with those whose Opinions he thinks are the best.

Q. Had Colonel *Paget*, upon your going away, the same Powers which you had when you were present ?

A. I understand he had : It has been the Custom there, that any Commandant, in the Absence of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, exercised the same Powers.

Q. Has the Commandant those Powers in the Absence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Course ; or has he any particular Commission for that Purpose ?

A. I do not understand he has any particular Commission for them.

Q. Whether you, when you are there, act by a Military Commission as Lieutenant-Governor ?

A. I act by a Commission from his Majesty as Lieutenant-Governor.

Q. Whether in case the Island stood neuter, 10000 Men were sufficient to form the Siege, and succeed in it ?

A. As to the Success of a Siege I can't say ; but I should think, if the Troops were complete, 10000 Men would find great Difficulty in conquering the Fort.

Q. Whether Admiral *Haddock*, at that Time, had not a sufficient Number of Ships to prevent any Attempt upon the Island, except the *Spaniards* had been superior at Sea ?

A. 'Tis my Apprehension, while there is a Fleet in the *Mediterranean* superior to the *Spanish* Fleet, any Attempt upon the Island will never be made ; there's no manner of Doubt of it ; for I believe nothing but Mr. *Haddock's* coming with five Ships (as I mention'd before) prevented the Attack.

Q. What is your Opinion of the Disposition and Temper of the People, whether they would have sided with the *Spaniards* if an Attack had been made ?

A. The People in that Island, since it has been in the Possession of the *English*, have been much happier than ever they were formerly, and greatly richer ; notwithstanding which, I may venture to assure your Lordships that they would join the *Spaniards*.

Q. Whether the State of the Establishment laid before the House, which you have in your Hands, is the same now as it was when you left the Island, and what Variations, if any ?

A. One of the Secretaries I brought with me from the Island ; and there's the Fort Major, have had his Majesty's Leave very lately. I do not know of any other Alterations.

Q. Whether the Regiments were compleat, as to Men and Officers, when you left the Island ?

A. No, my Lords ; but there may be laid before your Lordships an Account of the Men raised for the different Regiments in that Island, since the late Augmentation, which, I make no Doubt, wou'd convince your Lordships, that there has been no Neglect, but the Death, and Desertion of the Men that are listed here for that Place, make it impracticable to keep them compleat, in the common Way of Recruiting here.

Q. What Number of Officers were absent at that Time ; and what Number of Men were wanting to compleat the Regiments ?

A. I really can't acquaint your Lordships with that, upon my Memory ; but there is an Account of that in the Returns that were sent from the Island.

Q. Whereabouts was the Number of Officers and Men wanting ?

A. I know there were a great Number of Men wanting ; I believe near 700.

Q. What Number of Officers ?

A. I cannot recollect ; but, I believe, not so many Officers as Men, in Proportion.

Q. Whether there was not, at that Time, a Number of Recruits rais'd, and some upon the Sea going thither ?

A. To be sure, there are always Recruits going thither. I have sent Forty Men within this Fortnight, and have a great many more to go.

Q. Whether you think it possible for the Regiments at *Portmahon* to be perpetually full ; and whether you think there is a Fund sufficient to keep them so ?

A. 'Tis utterly impossible ; there may be an Account laid before your Lordships of Recruits which cost the Captain *L. 40* a Man.

Q. Whether 'tis possible to keep the Regiments more compleat than they were when you left the Island ?

A. To be sure they may be more compleat ; but we were under some Misfortunes of losing Recruits in their going thither.

Q. Whether you do not think there might have been such Methods taken as wou'd have kept those Regiments as compleat as other Regiments are kept ?

A. In

A. In place of Recruiting in the ordinary Way, if there had been Draughts sent over once a Year, to compleat those Regiments, to be sure they would have been more compleat than they now are, tho' there are many Objections to the Draughting of Regiments.

Q. Whether you ever met with any one Colonel that did not complain, when his Regiment was Draughted?

A. I believe there is no Colonel of a Regiment that inclines to have his Regiment Draughted.

Q. Whether you yourself in your Correspondence here have not complain'd of the Number of Officers absent, and Men wanting?

A. I have represented that there were too many Officers Absent, and that the Regiments were not complete.

Q. Whether you have not complain'd of it often?

A. I have represented it, but, upon my Memory, cannot tell whether once or twice.

Q. What Answers did you receive?

A. Upon my first Complaint, his Majesty was pleased to order a Draught of Men from *Ireland* to complete the Regiment I found in the Island. I was afterwards told, that the proper Orders were given for the absent Officers to repair to their Posts.

Q. Whether you found any Effect of those Orders that you were told were given?

A. Upon those Orders several Officers attended, but not all.

Q. Whether you do not know that Orders were several Times published in the *Gazette* for all Officers to repair to *Minorca*, notwithstanding any Leave of Absence; and whether Letters were not wrote to the Commanding Officers of the Regiments there, and particularly of his own Regiment, acquainting them with those Orders, and directing them to make Returns of such Officers as did not attend upon those Orders?

A. I know those Orders were given, and upon those Orders several Officers did attend. I sent over, from Time to Time, a Return of the Absent Officers, and of the Non-effective Men, by which the Secretary at War behov'd to know, who did obey those Orders, and who did not.

Q. Whether upon the repeated Accounts and Returns you made of the Officers absent, you ever heard that any of the Officers absenting themselves in this manner, were ever brought to a Court Martial?

A. I know of none being brought to a Court Martial in that Island for that Crime.

Q. Whether you ever heard from *England*, that any of them were brought to a Court Martial?

A. About seven Years ago, I had an Officer in my Regiment broke for disobeying the King's Orders to attend his Post. I had another Example later than that, about Ten Months ago.

Q. Whether you have the last Return you made of Men and Officers wanting?

A. The Returns are in the War Office.

Then he proceeded to the next Officer upon the List, the Commissary General of the Stores and Provisions, Lord Viscount *Irwin*, who is absent—Says that Office has always been executed by a Depute.

The next upon the List is the Deputy Judge Advocate, and Commissary of the Musters, Sir *Anthony Westcombe*, Bart. who is absent—Says he was there a Number of Years, but has acted by a Depute for, I believe, Eight or Nine Years.

The next upon the List are the Joint Secretaries, *George Moncrieff* and *Theophilus Bancroft*.—Says, Mr. *Moncrieff*, one of the Secretaries, I brought over with me, with Papers relating to the Island; the other Secretary is there, and has always continued there.

The next upon the List is the Chaplain, *James Achmuty*, who is absent—Says he lived there a considerable Number of Years, and has been absent, to the best of my Remembrance, about Eight Years.

The next upon the List is the Captain of the Ports, *Robert Frampton*, who is absent.—Says, This is a Gentleman that I never saw, and who never was in the Island.

Q. What is his Duty?

A. His Duty is to lock the Gates of the Fort, and bring the Keys to the Commanding Officer at Night, and to open them in the Morning, which is now done by the Adjutant of the Fort.

Q. Do you know where he is, or any thing of him? A. No; I do not.

Q. How long has he held his Office?

A. He succeeded one *Dobins*, to the best of my Remembrance, about two Years ago.

Q. What is his Salary or Pay?

A. I believe it is a Crown a Day; I can't be positive, but I think it is so.

The next upon the List is the Provost Marshal, *James Cosby*, who is present.

The next is the Signal Man, *John Castillio*, who is present.

The next upon the List, are the four Officers belonging to Fort *St. Anne* (viz.) *George Moncrieff*, Fort Major; *Giles Wakeman*, Adjutant; *Culmore Cockerill*, Surgeon; and *Daniel Cabrell*, Surgeon's Mate; who are absent.—Says, This Fort is the Place where the Fortifications were design'd to have been made; and had they been made in this Place, I will venture to say, Twenty thousand *Spaniards* could not have taken. That was the Reason of there being

being a Staff propos'd for the Fort, which is at present no more than a broken Windmill, and no House nor Cover for a Man to lye in, a Place where I put a Man to hoist a Flag when any Ship appears off the Island.

Q. Whether if the Persons belonging to this Fort had been upon the Island, they might not have been of Use in the other Fort?

A. They would have been so many Supernumeraries; and a Place that is besieg'd cannot be the weaker for having a Supply of a Surgeon and a Surgeon's Mate.

Q. What does the Pay of these four Officers amount to?

A. I can't upon Memory tell that directly. Your Lordships may have it from the War-Office.

Q. Whether those Officers would have been oblig'd to assist in defending the other Fort, if it had been attack'd, and would have been under your Command?

A. I understand that every Establishment there is under my Command; and if the Place had been attack'd, they would have been as much oblig'd to defend it, as they would Fort *St. Anne*.

The next upon the List are the Officers belonging to Fort *St. Philip*, (viz.) The Lieutenant Governor, Major General *Roger Handasyde*, who is absent.—Says, I do not know by whose Leave he is absent.

Q. How long has he been absent?

A. I believe he has not been there for a Number of Years.

The next upon the List is the Fort Major *Peter Dumas*, who is absent.—Says he came to *England* about six Weeks ago, and he never was from the Island, since it was in Possession of the *English*, above three or four Months.

Q. Whether you know any particular Reason he had for coming over; or whether the Leave was given him for a Time, and whether he is not now upon his Return?

A. He had, as I understand the King's Leave, to come over, and is now under Orders, or going to the Island again.

Q. Whether you know the Reason of his coming over?

A. I do not know the Reason other than that he brought his Wife and Family to settle them here.

The next upon the List is the Adjutant, *Arthur Morris*.—Says he is there, and has been there many Years.

The next is the Surgeon *James Scot*, who is absent.—Says, this is the only Person upon the List that I did give Leave to come to *England*, and who ought to have returned before now.

The next is the Surgeon's Mate, *Jonathan Elder*, who is present.

Q. What is your Recruiting Fund in *Minorca*?

A. The Recruiting Fund is the same as that of the Troops in *England*, which is two War-rant Men upon the List, which are suppos'd to be Non-effective.

Q. Whether 'tis possible this Fund should be sufficient to compleat the Regiments?

A. I have acquainted your Lordships with the Difficulty and Expence the Gentlemen are at in Recruiting the Troops in that Island. An Officer in *England* can have a Man for Ten Shillings, which would cost a Captain in the Island Ten or Fifteen Pounds.

Q. How many Years the Regiments in *Minorca* have been there without being relieved?

A. There are two of the Regiments in the Island that have been there five or six and twenty Years; there are two others that have been there fifteen or sixteen Years. My Regiment his Majesty was pleas'd to order over about four Years ago.

Q. Whether you are not convinc'd, that this is not Relieving of the Regiments; and whether the keeping the Regiments so long there, has not been of infinite Detriment to the Service?

A. I think it has.

Q. Whether there have not been many melancholy Instances of the Despair of the Soldiers in those Regiments?

A. Yes, there have.

Q. Whether you had not Directions to write to the Island to acquaint them, that the Regiments would be relieved, one Regiment every Year till the whole were relieved; and whether you did not represent that that would be satisfactory?

A. I did write to the Commanding Officer of the Island that he might acquaint the Troops; that his Majesty was determin'd to relieve one Regiment every Year; which, my Lords, I am satisfy'd would put a Stop to all such Accidents that have happen'd, and be satisfactory.

Q. What Time was that Letter wrote?

A. I wrote that Letter about nine Months ago.

Q. Whether any Regiments have gone thither since that Time; and whether you know of any that is going to embark?

A. I have been told lately, that two Regiments will be sent, one to relieve a Regiment at *Gibraltar*, and another to relieve one at *Minorca*; but none are gone hitherto.

Q. You are desir'd to acquaint the House with some of those Instances of Despair in the Soldiers; and whether they have been frequent?

A. There

A. There have been a good many Instances of Soldiers upon that Island shooting off their Hands, and some them shooting off their Feet, and some shooting themselves through the Head, of those that have been the longest there ; by which your Lordships will observe, they will incapacitate themselves from getting their Bread at Home, rather than continue there.

Q. How lately were you told that two Regiments were to be sent from hence, one to *Gibraltar*, and the other to *Minorca* ?

A. I think it was about a Month ago that I heard so.

Q. Who was it that told you so ?

A. I heard it from the Lords of his Majesty's Council.

Q. Did not you attend at a Committee of Council about three Weeks ago, touching Affairs relating to *Portmahon* ? A. I did.

Q. How long have those Accidents been frequent ?

A. Those Accidents were frequent before I had the Honour to command in the Island ; and several of them have happen'd since I have been there.

Q. Did not you represent this some Time before you left the Island, in your Correspondence here ?

A. Upon my Word I can't be positive, but I think I did.

He was directed to withdraw.

28 January.

The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate which arose Yesterday upon a Motion made in Relation to the Officers who are absent from *Minorca*, and for the Attendance of Major General *Anstruther* ; Who attending accordingly was called in, and being Sworn, was shewed the List of the several Officers upon the Establishment of *Minorca*, whereby it appears what Number of them are absent, and the Nature of their respective Offices, and was desired to give the Reasons (as far as he knew) which occasioned their Absence. And having given a particular Account of this Matter, was examined further in general as to the State and Condition of the said Island, and the Number and Condition of the Forces there, and other Matters.

And being withdrawn,

The Proposition made Yesterday was again Stated, and a Question being put thereupon, It was resolved in the Negative.

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A Motion was made, That it appearing to this House that the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of *Minorca*, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Fort *St. Philip*, and several other Officers upon the Establishment there, are now absent from the said Island, to the manifest Prejudice of the Publick Service ; Resolved that an humble Address be presented to to his Majesty, &c. to give Directions, that the Officers upon the Establishment who are absent, as aforesaid, do forthwith repair to their respective Posts, and that his Majesty, out of his Royal Care of so important a Place, will be pleased to give the strictest Orders, that for the future to prevent any such Prejudice to the Publick Service, such a Number of the said Principal and other Officers as shall be sufficient to perform the Services belonging to the said Establishment, be constantly resident on the Place.

The same was agreed to,

PROTEST Die Jovis 28 Januarij, 1741.

THE Order of the Day being read, resuming the adjourn'd Debate, which arose Yesterday, upon a Motion then made in the Words following, viz.

“ As it appears to this House, by the List of the Officers belonging to the Establishment of
“ *Minorca* : That out of Nineteen Officers, only one Adjutant, one of the joint Secretaries,
“ the Provost Marshal, and one Surgeon's Mate, and the Signal Man, are attending their Duty
“ in the Island : It is the Opinion of this House, that the permitting so many Officers to be
“ absent in Time of profound Peace, would be a great Neglect of the Publick Service, tend-
“ ing to the Destruction of Military Discipline ; but that the suffering them to be absent in
“ Time of War, at a Juncture, when the Island of *Minorca* has been threaten'd with an In-
“ vasion from the *Spaniards*, renders the Possession of that important Place precarious, and is
“ highly injurious to the Honour and Interest of these Kingdoms.

And also,

“ A Motion for the Attendance of Major General *Anstruther* ; who attending accordingly
“ was call'd in, and having been Sworn, the List of the Officers belonging to the Establish-
“ ment of *Minorca*, laid before this House the 20th Instant, distinguishing which of them are
“ upon the Place, and which of them are absent, was shewn to him, and he was directed to

“ give an Account of the Persons absent, the Nature of their Offices and Employments, and
 “ the Reasons of their being so absent; and having given an Account thereof, was examined
 “ further in general as to the State and Condition of the said Island, the Number and Con-
 “ dition of the Forces there, the Manner and Method of Recruiting, and other Matters.

*And then he was directed to withdraw, and the foregoing Motion made yesterday being in-
 sisted on,* After Debate, The Question was put thereupon,

And it was Resolved in the Negative,

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Dissentient

1. Because We conceive, That as the Fact stated in the former Part of the Question, ap-
 pear'd plainly from the Paper laid before this House by the proper Officer, and neither was nor
 could be controverted by any one Lord, the Censure contain'd in the latter Part of the Question
 was not only Just, but as Gentle as so evident a Neglect of so important a Place, at so critical
 a Time could possibly allow. The Principal, if not the only, Argument made use of by those
 Lords who opposed the Motion was, That the Censure was General, and pointed at no par-
 ticular Persons, which we rather apprehend to be a Proof of the Justice and Moderation of
 that Censure, as it could then only light upon the Guilty whoever they were; and we are
 inclined to believe, that had the Censure been applied to any particular Persons, the contrary
 Argument would have been urged, and the Injustice of a particular Censure, without Proofs,
 founded high, tho' possibly, at the same time, the necessary Means of getting at those Proofs
 might have been rendred difficult: That out of Nineteen Officers paid upon the Establishment
 of *Minorca* Fourteen were absent, among whom were the Governor, the Deputy Governor,
 and the Governor of *Fort St. Philip*, was a Fact disputed by none, tho' the slightest Censure
 of it was oppos'd by the Majority of the House. We therefore hope, that Posterity, to whom
 We thus Appeal, will not only approve of our Conduct in this Motion, but will likewise, from
 the ill Success of it, find Reasons to excuse our not attempting many others of the like Nature.

2. Because, when we consider the tender Apprehensions of the Administration for the Island
 of *Minorca*, in the Year 1740, when, upon Information received, that a few Troops were
 marching to the Coasts of *Catalonia*, and a few Tartanes assembled in the Port of *Barce-
 lona*, Orders (possibly obscure from that Precipitation which the Emergency requir'd) were
 sent to our Admirals in the *Mediterranean*, to provide immediately for the Defence of that
 Island, *even by going there with their whole Force, if necessary*. By the Execution or Mistake
 of which Orders, the *Spanish* Squadron was suffered to sail from *Cadiz* to the *West-Indies*, to
 the imminent Danger of our Fleets and Possessions there. We cannot well account for that
 profound Security in which the Administration seem'd to be the last Year, with Regard to
 that valuable Possession, when an Embarkation of fourteen or fifteen thousand Men, and above
 two hundred Transport-ships was publicly preparing at *Barcelona*, and consequently within
 four and twenty Hours Sail of *Minorca*, which Embarkation soon after went undisturb'd to
Italy: But we fear this inconsistent Conduct may give too much Credit to Insinuations lately
 scatter'd in the Publick, that the *British* Ministers were as secure that *Minorca* would not be
 attack'd by the *Spaniards*, as the *Spanish* Ministers were that their Embarkation would fail to
Italy undisturb'd by our Squadrons in the *Mediterranean*.

3. Because it appears, That about the same Time that Major General *Anstruther* left that
 Island, by Leave from the Secretary at War, which was on the 15th of *February* last, Admiral
Haddock informs the Secretary of State, in a Letter of the 10th of the same Month, that by
 the latest Letters from Mr. Consul *Birtles*, he mentions, “ *That a Spanish Embarkation is*
 “ *actually intended, and tho' the first Design was on a sudden dropp'd, the last Intelligence de-*
 “ *clares the same to be renew'd again;*” which Information, we conceive, was sufficient to have
 excited greater Apprehensions for the Danger of that Island, than seem to have been entertain-
 ed, since no one Step appears to have been taken thereupon for its Defence, or any Leave of Ab-
 sence recall'd; but the whole Government was suffer'd to devolve to a Lieutenant Colonel of
 one of the Regiments there.

4. Because it appear'd by the Examination of Major General *Anstruther* at the Bar, that
 when he left *Minorca*, about the 15th of *February* last, above seven hundred Men were
 wanting to complete the Regiments there, and near the same Proportion of Officers absent:
 That the private Soldiers were so uneasy at having been there so long, that many destroy'd
 themselves from Despair, and many maim'd themselves to get discharg'd. That should the
 Island be attack'd, the Inhabitants would, in his Opinion, certainly join the *Spaniards*:
 That in his Opinion too, that Island was always in Danger when our Enemies were superior in
 the *Mediterranean*, which has been for some Time, and is still the Case. All which Circum-
 stances concur to prove the Danger, the Neglect, and the Justice of censuring such a Neglect
 at such a Time.

5. Because it was said in the Debate by those whose high Stations best enable them to
 know, *That a general Relaxation of Government, and Abuses of this Nature, were the Vices*
of the present Age. A melancholy Truth! which We conceive is so far from being an Argu-
 ment for Impunity, that it evinces the Necessity, at least, of censuring such as We can attain
 to the Knowledge and Proofs of. And indeed, We have but too much Reason to believe,
 that the several Abuses committed in the several Branches of the Government, unpunish'd at
 least

least, if not conniv'd at, have already produc'd Effects too sensibly felt by this Nation ; which Abuses, from the Nature of Things, necessarily multiply themselves, and if not speedily check'd, must soon forge a Chain of reciprocal and criminal Dependency, too strong for even the Authority of this House to break, too heavy for the Constitution to bear.

6. Because the Motion for an Address, offer'd in lieu of this Question, in which the same Fact is stated in its full Extent, but without the least Censure annex'd to it, is, in our Opinions, not only unprecedented, but inconsistent with the Honour and Dignity of this House; as it may seem calculated to screen the Guilt it avows ; and as it may be thought to intimate future Impunity for publick Crimes, if balanc'd by private Ministerial Merit. Artifice may elude Enquiries, or prevent Detection ; Lenity may censure a Crime, yet spare the Criminal ; but Mankind, we fear, may be at a Loss to account from what Motives so Criminal a Neglect, fully stated, prov'd and admitted, could escape without Censure ; or may ascribe it to such as would affect the Reputation, and consequently lessen the Authority of this House.

Sandwich
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Greenwich
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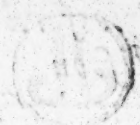
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Suffolk
Haversham
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Westmoreland
Thanet
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Hereford
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Macclesfield
Bedford

1870
The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the membership of the Society since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, held on the 1st of January, 1870.



1. Mr. J. H. ...
2. Mr. ...
3. Mr. ...
4. Mr. ...
5. Mr. ...
6. Mr. ...
7. Mr. ...
8. Mr. ...
9. Mr. ...
10. Mr. ...

